

“Foreign capital as a determinant of the non-financial reporting development in insurance companies of the Visegrad Group countries”

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FOREIGN CAPITAL AS A DETERMINANT OF THE NON-FINANCIAL REPORTING DEVELOPMENT IN INSURANCE COMPANIES OF THE VISEGRAD GROUP COUNTRIES

Abstract

Insurance companies are institutions of public trust, and this affects their corporate culture, strategies and management systems. One of the image concerns is reporting on socially responsible actions in non-financial reports. The prime objective of the research presented in this paper is to analyze the dependence between the level of non-financial reporting in the insurance market and the share of foreign capital, measured based on the market size of foreign insurance companies compared to all insurance companies, and the share of foreign insurance companies in non-financial reporting. The study concerned insurance markets in the Czech Republic, Hungary, Poland and Slovakia, and the overall market of the Visegrad Group countries. The theoretical section provides a review of the literature and applicable legislation to indicate the causes of non-financial reporting by insurance companies. Next, the correlation was used to determine the relationship between the variables studied, the regression method was applied to determine the impact of the variables studied, in particular foreign capital, on the level of non-financial reporting. A model was constructed, and the results of its estimation were analyzed. Analysis of the data demonstrated that the greater the share of foreign capital, the higher the level of non-financial reporting. The study results indicate that the share of foreign insurance companies can become a determinant in the development of non-financial reporting.

Keywords

insurance market, life insurance, Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR), non-financial reporting, foreign capital, Visegrad Group

JEL Classification

G22, M14, M41

INTRODUCTION

The development of non-financial reporting stems from the growing social awareness and public interest in the ethical aspects of business. This means that not only good financial performance is needed, but also social acceptance. In accordance with the Directive 2009/138/EU, insurance companies are bound to undertake a range of actions as part of their management systems. One of the image cares is reporting on socially responsible actions in non-financial reports. Mory et al. (2015) suggest that CSR engagement is closely connected with a reputation and helps to uplift it. Diemont et al. (2013) state that companies that are concerned about their reputation tend to undertake CSR more often. Thus, image considerations are among main causes of CSR and non-financial reporting. Socially responsible companies "fulfil the social and environmental aspects of their activities", not only traditional economic objectives (Jarolimova & Tuckova, 2019). The concept of CSR and its influence on business is heavily debated for many

years. The opponents of the CSR led by Friedman (1962, 1970) argued that social responsibility is not in the interests of corporations and that the purpose and accountability of business is to enhance its gains.

Since January 1, 2017, the regulations of the Directive 2014/95/EU have obliged insurance companies to report on their non-financial information. The directive represents an effort by the European Council to enhance transparency on business matters, such as social and environmental and others connected to corporate responsibility, which means that CSR reporting is becoming mandatory for some companies. Research into non-financial reporting by insurance companies shows it is not universal. This is caused by non-obligatory status and differences in management systems. The duty of non-financial reporting drives its development to a maximum extent, as demonstrated by a KPMG study (2016). It shows a rise of non-financial reporting in Asia Pacific from 49% in 2011 to 79% in 2015 as the reporting was regulated. The rate of reporting in Europe was high – more than 70% – despite its voluntary nature until January 1, 2017. The reporting in Western (2015 – 79%) and Eastern European (2015 – 61%) countries is clearly disproportionate. This may be due to differences in corporate management systems and shareholdings of foreign investors that transfer their experience of non-financial reporting. This contributes to the expansion of insurers' information policies.

According to Bukowski and Lament (2020), it is important to realize that in order to support the progress of the whole process, it is inevitable to universalize insurance services. Ma and Pope (2003) state that foreign participation in non-life insurance market influences market competition and market liberalization. Moshirian (1997, 1999) concludes that the level of foreign investment in life insurance is affected by the overall demand for insurance services. Carson et al. (2014) assume that a higher life insurance pervasion in developing countries is connected with higher foreign investment in those countries. Thus, it can be said that, if insurance market advancement is set by foreign investment, it can be deduced that it also conduces non-financial reporting progression.

Aims and hypothesis

The aim of this paper, therefore, was to ascertain effects of foreign capital on non-financial reporting. This objective required the consecutive research questions to be addressed:

- What factors determine causes for non-financial reporting by insurance companies?
- Does foreign capital influence the development of non-financial reporting by insurance companies?

The following research hypothesis has been advanced: Foreign capital is a determinant in the development of non-financial reporting. It is assumed that the higher the share of foreign capital in a market, the greater the level of non-financial reporting.

In search of an answer to the query and to validate the research objective, a critical literature search was performed, an analysis of factors that influence non-financial reporting was carried out, and statistical methods were applied. A model was constructed and consequently, the results of the model's presumptions were analyzed.

As mentioned above, the rate of foreign capital is assumed as a factor influencing the advancement of non-financial reporting. Therefore, it was identified as an independent variable for the purpose of this study. There are other explanatory variables that affect the development of non-financial reporting and that were additionally reasoned: the number of insurance companies operating in the market (i.e. market size), the structure of the market based on the size of life insurance companies compared to all insurance companies, the advancement of the insurance markets translated by the density rate and the rate of pervasion.

The study used annual data published by OECD (2008, 2011, 2015, 2016, 2017), covering the insurance markets of the Visegrad Group countries, starting from 2000 and ending in 2016. Insurance companies drafting non-financial reports have been established from the GRI reporting database.

This study aims to broaden knowledge on the development of theories postulating factors in the development of Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR).

1. LITERATURE REVIEW

Non-financial reporting is a form of communicating social and environmental information to various groups of stakeholders. This element of information policy presents socially responsible actions relating to care for the environment, ethical conduct in business or openness to needs of local communities. Such actions affect not only responsible relationships with the environment, but also reputation and reliability of an organization, and consequently, its financial performance and goodwill.

The Directive 2014/95/EU requires explicit credit and insurance companies (occupying more than 500 employees) to comply with the new reporting requirements, as these sectors are considered to be public interest. It should be noted that there are both supporters and critics of non-financial reporting. Criticisms are chiefly applied to materiality and reliability of information disclosed and the lack of impact on sustainable development. Notwithstanding, corporations strive to improve and professionalize their communication, non-financial reports are not sensed as reliable and trusted. Various researchers mention this as a “credibility gap” (Dando & Swift, 2003; MacLean & Rebernak, 2007) and classified it among the most important appeals that non-financial reporting needs to overcome (Knebel & Seele, 2015). Critics focus on the quality of non-financial reports that could be improved, with separate reporting, application of GRI (GSSB, Global Reporting Initiative) standards, and communicating of CSR actions. Authors indicate the most common cause of non-financial reporting as satisfaction of stakeholder needs (Briš et al., 2013; Krištofik et al., 2016; Lament, 2017). Research into non-financial statements accentuates its effect on market behavior (Burianová & Paulík, 2014; Dobrovic et al., 2018) and financial results of corporations (Placier, 2011; Rajnoha & Lesníková, 2016). Many

authors, however, regard non-financial reporting as chiefly a tool of image management (Briš et al., 2013; Rajnoha & Lesníková, 2016; Bartok, 2018; Dobrovic et al., 2018).

Thus, causes of non-financial reporting can be divided into two rough groups (Śmiechowski & Lament, 2017):

1. Marketing and image (information), part of information policies of enterprises. Non-financial reports help to build reliability among and strengthen relationships with stakeholders, manage reputational risk, and boost competitive advantage. This enhances brand value (Bartok, 2018; Dobrovic et al., 2018) and improves image and reputation of an enterprise (Briš et al., 2013; Burianová & Paulík, 2014; Lament, 2017).
2. Financial, related to the impact of CSR on an enterprise's financial standing. It should be pointed out, however, that the literature affirms dependences between CSR and financial position (e.g., Dobrovic et al., 2018; Placier, 2011; Olowokudejo et al., 2011) and denies such dependences (e.g. Ngatia, 2014).

Non-financial reporting by insurance companies is an underexplored area. Overview research in this subject has been carried out by Lament (2017, 2019). According to this author, the main researchers of non-financial reporting in insurance companies are: AISAM (2006), Scholtens (2011), Olowokudejo et al. (2011), Lock and Seele (2013), Ngatia (2014), Kavitha and Anuradha (2016) and Lament (2017). AISAM (2006) and Vukić et al. (2020) indicate a bias that the publication of non-financial statements has on reputation and image of insurance companies. Scholtens (2011) examined international insurance companies and showed a diversity of non-financial reporting principles across types of insurers and across countries.

Olowokudejo et al. (2011) addressed the impact of CSR actions on the efficiency of insurance companies and concluded that insurers realizing CSR strategies perform better financially. The authors claim CSR actions improve the effectiveness of insurance companies by boosting their profitability. Lock and Seele (2013) surveyed the principles of non-financial reporting by chemical, banking and insurance sectors, showing the need to standardize its principles. Ngatia (2014) examined the effect of CSR actions on financial achievement of 51 insurers active in Kenya in 2009–2013. The author realized that a negative correlation exists between Corporate Social Responsibility actions undertaken and financial performance. Kavitha and Anuradha (2016) analyzed good CSR practices employed by insurers in India. Lament (2017) examined Polish insurance companies and their principles of non-financial reporting. The study covered non-financial reports compiled in 2001–2015. They were found to be of varied quality.

Thus, the research into CSR and principles of their reporting by insurance companies, just like by other businesses, encompasses two main lines: image considerations and their impact on insurers' reputation and the impact of CSR actions on financial performance. Insurance companies draft non-financial reports as they are tools of image management and contribute to its strengthening or improvement and, in the longer run, may influence financial results. Image matters to insurers as the idea of insurance is founded on trust. Therefore, insurance companies want to be seen as reliable. In effect, CSR actions and their reporting can become major tools of improving or reasserting their image.

Causes of non-financial reporting by insurance companies can be assigned to three interrelated groups based on Lament (2019):

1. Perception of insurers as institutions of public trust – image considerations.
2. Management system of an insurance company, a function of its specific nature and fostering non-financial reporting.
3. Legal regulations of non-financial reporting.

Perception of insurers as institutions of public trust arises from the very essence of insurance. By entering into a contract of insurance, an insurer agrees to provide insurance coverage. Therefore, certain legal, organizational and institutional regulations of the insurance market are designed to assure that the coverage is genuine by protecting all parties to a contract of insurance against potential consequences of the insurance system forfeiting its credibility. This derives from the care for interests of contract beneficiaries and for the reputation of the entire insurance market, since each insolvency undermines public confidence and adversely affects its development. The specific view of insurers as institutions of public trust influences their corporate culture, operation strategies and management systems. In line with the Directive 2009/138/EU and according to Lament (2019), insurance companies are bound to take the following measures as part of their management systems:

- appropriate and commensurate systems, resources and procedures ensuring correct and cautious management of their operations as a going and regular concern (Article 41);
- assuring competences and reputations of managers or holders of other key functions (Article 42);
- “effective risk management” system, including “strategies, processes and reporting procedures” (Article 44);
- effective and proper “integration of the risk management system into organizational structure and decision-making processes”, including holders of key functions (Article 44);
- regular, independent risk and solvency assessments on a yearly basis as a minimum (Article 45);
- establishment of an effective internal control system and a compliance function (Article 46);
- effective and objective internal audit function independent from operational functions (Article 47); and
- effective actuarial function (Article 48).

The regulations imposing the implementation of an appropriate management system are extensive and require a range of internal procedures. This contributes to identification of risks to an insurance company, an effective system of their management and a broad scope of external and internal reporting. Thus, a management system enhances transparency and reliability of insurers and is a good foundation for the implementation of CSR. Implementation of CSR reflects they care for the image. Owing to the wide scope of information policies, compilation of non-financial reports may not constitute a considerable burden in both organizational and financial terms, while it may contribute to improvement or strengthening of the image, an added incentive to report.

Pursuant to the Directives 2014/95/EU and 2013/34/EU, insurance companies as entities of public interest are obliged to disclose non-financial information in their financial statements as of the business year beginning on January 1, 2017, including environmental, social and labor issues, respect for human rights, and countering bribery and corruption. The scope of non-financial reporting is detailed in Article 19a of the Directive 2014/95/EU and includes:

- “description of a business model,
- non-financial key performance indicators relevant to the business operations,
- description of the policies pursued by the undertaking, including due diligence processes implemented,
- description of major risks linked to the undertaking’s operations, including” issues relating to and in connection with environment, labor, respect for human rights, and countering bribery and corruption, risks associated with the undertaking’s products or relationships with the outside, including commercial partners, and a specification of how these risks are managed.

In line with the ‘comply or explain’ principle, entities subject to regulations of the Directive 2014/95/EU shall explain or provide causes of

absence of any policies in these areas. In exceptional cases, if disclosing such information may unfavorably affect entity and its commercial status without influencing adequate and objective grasp of the entity’s development, result and circumstances, the reporting can be omitted.

Non-financial data may be disclosed as:

- a separate report of non-financial information, to be referenced in a report of operations. It must be posted on an entity’s website within 6 months of a closing balance date or within 30 days, though not later than within 12 months of a closing balance date if an entity enjoys an exemption and submits a relevant statement or a distinct non-financial report of a higher-ranking parent entity whose scope covers the former entity,
- non-financial statements as a separate section of an operations report.

Subsidiaries and lower-order parent entities are released from the duty to compile non-financial reports if their parent entity or a higher-ranking parent entity covers them in its consolidated statement or report of non-financial information. This is an apparent release, however, since such entities, though exempt from legal regulations, are bound to report internally to their parent companies.

Both principles of drafting and scope of non-financial reports or statements are left to the discretion of reporting entities. Section 9 of the Directive 2014/95/EU states that subject entities may rely on the national framework principles, EU framework principles or other recognized international framework principles.

Directive 2014/95/EU regulations will influence information systems and reporting of insurance companies by expanding their scopes. It should be noted, however, that principles of reporting may be selected. An external verification of non-financial reports is not required either. Thus, the regulations of the Directive order non-financial reporting and impose the duty of regular, annual reporting. They are not overly

rigorous, however, which can be seen as positive, on the one hand, allowing for individual approaches in considering the specific nature of a given entity. Lock and Seele (2015) state that a content is important, rather than a format. But the regulations will not help improve quality of the reporting. Lament's research into Polish insurers (2017) implies non-financial reports are incomparable both individually (continuity is not maintained) and through sectors (they are compiled as per diverse rules). This qualitative variability of non-financial reports prepared by insurance companies is affirmed by Scholtens (2011) and Lock and Seele (2013). Preservation of transparency and legibility requires non-financials to be disclosed in an adequate scope, in an appropriate form and in accordance with standards to be set by sectors (Krištofik et al., 2016).

2. METHODOLOGY AND DATA

The existence of a dependence between the level of non-financial reporting in the insurance market and the share of foreign capital, measured based on the size of foreign insurance companies compared to all insurance companies and the share of foreign insurance companies in non-financial reporting, is a research problem. It is hypothesized that foreign capital positively influences the advancement of non-financial reporting.

The following characteristics of a given market (independent variables) are additionally considered to have an impact on the level of non-financial reporting:

- market size – it is hypothesized that market largeness positively influences advancement of insurance markets (e.g. Outreville, 1990; Ward & Zurbrugg, 2000; Li et al., 2007);
- structure of the insurance market – it is hypothesized that with the growing share of the life insurance companies in the market, their positive influence on the development of insurance market increases (e.g. Haiss & Sümegi, 2008; Arena, 2008);

- advancement of the insurance market – translated by the density rate and penetration rate.

The model was built using multiple regression. The following panel data model was built to verify the hypothesis:

$$LR_{i,t} = a_1 + a_2 FIC_{i,t} + a_3 FRIC_{i,t} + a_4 NIC_{i,t} + a_5 LIC_{i,t} + a_6 D_{i,t} + a_7 P_{i,t} + u_{i,t}, \quad (1)$$

where $LR_{i,t}$ – level of non-financial reporting, $FIC_{i,t}$ – market share of foreign companies in the domestic market, $FRIC_{i,t}$ – share of foreign insurance companies in non-financial reporting, $NIC_{i,t}$ – number of insurance companies, $LIC_{i,t}$ – life insurance share, $D_{i,t}$ – density rate (USD per inhabitant), and $P_{i,t}$ – penetration rate (gross written premiums/GDP).

The study concerned the insurance markets in the Czech Republic, Hungary, Poland and Slovakia, as well as the overall market of the Visegrad Group countries.

Yearlong data, published by OECD (2008, 2011, 2015, 2016, 2017), covering the insurance markets of Visegrad Group countries, starting the year 2000 and ending the year 2016, have been used. Insurance companies drafting non-financial reports have been established from GRI report database.

The prospecting was split into two main parts. In the first, correlation between the variables studied was determined. In the other, the regression method was used to determine the impact of the variables studied, in particular foreign capital, on the level of non-financial reporting. Table 1 outlines the statistics for the variables examined in the course of the search.

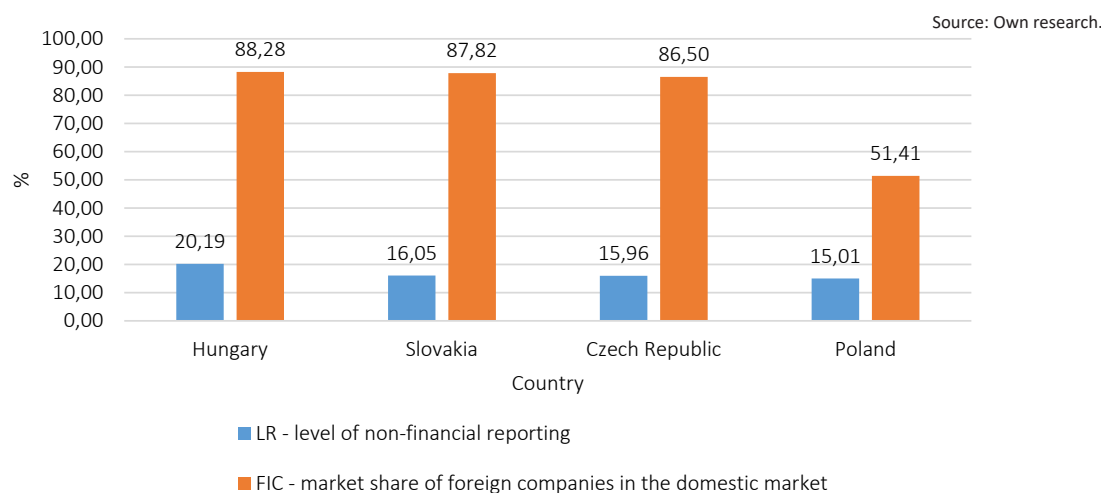
Analysis of the data in Table 1 helps establishing a dependence between the level of non-financial reporting and the share of foreign capital in the insurance market (Figure 1). It demonstrates that the greater the share of foreign capital, the higher the level of non-financial reporting. It provides preliminary justification for the research hypothesis posited.

Table 1. Basic statistics outlining the studied variables from the Visegrad Group countries in 2000–2016

Source: The authors' own research based on OECD (2008, 2015, 2016, 2017), GRI Sustainability Disclosure Database. [Accessed: May 9, 2019].

Specification	LR	NIC	D	P	FIC	FRIC	LIC
All insurance companies – Visegrad Group							
Average	0.1680	50.4559	393.2647	0.0507	0.7850	0.63477	0.4687
Median	0.1512	50.5000	395.0000	0.0320	0.8971	1.00000	0.4665
Minimum	0.0000	24.0000	110.0000	0.0240	0.4098	0.0000	0.3226
Maximum	0.5348	78.0000	822.0000	0.3770	0.9920	1.00000	0.6567
Variance	0.02	197.77	30526.02	0.01	0.04	23.286	0.01
Standard deviation	0.1343	14.0632	174.7170	0.0743	0.1971	0.48256	0.0748
Czech Republic							
Average	0.1596	49.0588	547.8824	0.0941	0.8650	0.70846	0.4088
Median	0.1346	52.0000	574.0000	0.0380	0.9285	1.00000	0.4069
Minimum	0.0238	40.0000	178.0000	0.0299	0.4098	0.00824	0.3226
Maximum	0.3396	55.0000	822.0000	0.3770	0.9486	1.00000	0.4690
Variance	0.01	29.93	40491.99	0.02	0.02	21.673	0.00
Standard deviation	0.1136	5.4712	201.2262	0.1279	0.1343	0.465546	0.0413
Hungary							
Average	0.2019	51.5882	317.9412	0.0445	0.8828	0.41602	0.4895
Median	0.1904	49.0000	341.0000	0.0290	0.8869	0.00933	0.5044
Minimum	0.0000	40.0000	131.0000	0.0240	0.4913	0.0000	0.4008
Maximum	0.5348	68.0000	406.0000	0.2890	0.9545	1.00000	0.5489
Variance	0.029	88.507	8180.184	0.004	0.012	25.3647	0.003
Standard deviation	0.16913	9.40783	90.44437	0.06311	0.11003	0.503634	0.05501
Poland							
Average	0.1501	67.5294	330.1765	0.0332	0.5141	0.53224	0.4927
Median	0.0882	69.0000	361.0000	0.0320	0.5275	1.00000	0.5220
Minimum	0.0000	57.0000	124.0000	0.0276	0.4137	0.0000	0.3356
Maximum	0.4098	78.0000	496.0000	0.0462	0.5695	1.00000	0.6567
Variance	0.02	43.26	18170.15	0.00	0.00	26.1534	0.01
Standard deviation	0.1485	6.5776	134.7967	0.0050	0.0512	0.51140	0.1032
Slovakia							
Average	0.1605	33.6471	377.0588	0.0309	0.8782	0.88235	0.4839
Median	0.1764	34.0000	428.0000	0.0310	0.9240	1.00000	0.5010
Minimum	0.0000	24.0000	110.0000	0.0257	0.4462	0.0000	0.4027
Maximum	0.3157	54.0000	550.0000	0.0356	0.9920	1.00000	0.5550
Variance	0.01	53.12	25048.43	0.00	0.03	11.0294	0.00
Standard deviation	0.1013	7.2882	158.2670	0.0026	0.1602	0.33210	0.0542

Note: LR – level of non-financial reporting, NIC – number of insurance companies, D – density rate (USD per inhabitant), P – penetration rate (gross written premiums/GDP), FIC – market share of foreign companies in the domestic market, FRIC – share of foreign insurance companies in non-financial reporting, LIC – life insurance share.

**Figure 1.** The relationship between the level of non-financial reporting and the share of foreign capital in the insurance market in the Visegrad Group countries

3. RESULTS

Correlations among the variables studied are shown in Table 2.

The study has found statistically significant coefficients of correlation between the level of reporting (variable LR) and all the variables examined with reference to all the groups studied, with the exception of penetration rate (variable P) and insurance market structure (variable LIC) concerning the Polish insurance market. Foreign

insurance companies drafting non-financial reports (variable FRIC) are negatively correlated with the level of reporting (variable LR) except for the Slovak market. This means domestic insurance companies make a key contribution to continuing development of non-financial reporting. The positive correlation in the Slovak market results from a very high share of foreign capital in that insurance market. Therefore, mainly foreign insurers contribute to developing non-financial reporting in this case. As far as the remaining variables are concerned, a significant correlation

Table 2. Correlations among the variables studied from the Visegrad Group countries in 2000–2016

Source: Own research.

Specification	LR	NIC	D	P	FIC	FRIC	LIC
All insurance companies – Visegrad Group							
LR	1.000000						
NIC	-0.131604	1.000000					
D	0.508463	-0.070938	1.000000				
P	-0.229640	-0.001413	-0.018510	1.000000			
FIC	0.356050	-0.551587	0.471924	0.079098	1.000000		
FRIC	-0.474619	-0.193860	0.000671	0.206239	0.054874	1.000000	
LIC	0.497768	0.016527	0.325165	-0.276287	0.074134	-0.079911	1.000000
Czech Republic							
LR	1.000000						
NIC	0.791139	1.000000					
D	0.725826	0.869941	1.000000				
P	-0.420736	-0.229067	-0.393779	1.000000			
FIC	0.577405	0.681260	0.752142	-0.082367	1.000000		
FRIC	-0.872347	-0.503623	-0.385197	0.309124	-0.317021	1.000000	
LIC	0.741417	0.753320	0.936671	-0.344870	0.712082	-0.482188	1.000000
Hungary							
LR	1.000000						
NIC	-0.671525	1.000000					
D	0.526772	-0.740141	1.000000				
P	-0.306955	0.356306	-0.053212	1.000000			
FIC	0.558710	-0.288566	0.587582	-0.008601	1.000000		
FRIC	-0.566696	0.073931	-0.110466	0.330439	-0.157863	1.000000	
LIC	0.706394	-0.753500	0.737495	-0.387284	0.342409	-0.387205	1.000000
Poland							
LR	1.000000						
NIC	-0.854169	1.000000					
D	0.722489	-0.652859	1.000000				
P	0.104140	-0.195270	0.676751	1.000000			
FIC	0.804773	-0.641089	0.916805	0.502113	1.000000		
FRIC	-0.604584	0.426338	-0.266563	0.235869	-0.288322	1.000000	
LIC	0.353694	-0.368602	0.844063	0.904150	0.741705	0.125578	1.000000
Slovakia							
LR	1.000000						
NIC	0.689600	1.000000					
D	0.849158	0.603519	1.000000				
P	-0.634020	-0.823707	-0.384847	1.000000			
FIC	0.425048	0.165482	0.538979	0.230241	1.000000		
FRIC	0.596753	0.265811	0.523338	-0.082871	0.383835	1.000000	
LIC	0.868842	0.667310	0.930532	-0.565881	0.342255	0.523998	1.000000

Note: LR – level of non-financial reporting, NIC – number of insurance companies, D – density rate (USD per inhabitant), P – penetration rate (gross written premiums / GDP), FIC – market share of foreign companies in the domestic market, FRIC – share of foreign insurance companies in non-financial reporting, and LIC – life insurance share.

was obtained between the share of foreign capital in the market (variable FIC) and the rate of density (variable D). This means the share of foreign capital contributes to the development of a given market expressed as insurance premium per 1 inhabitant. Results of multiple regression are shown in Table 3.

Table 3. Results of multiple regression from the Visegrad Group countries in 2000–2016

Source: Own research.

Specification	b*	Std. Error b*	b	Std. Error b	t	p-value
All insurance companies – Visegrad Group						
Summary of regression variables LR: R=0.98517960 R²= 0.97057884 Impr. R2= 0.96714637 F(6,8)= 282.7641						
p<0.00000 Std. Error of estimation: 0.024336772						
Const.			-0.006886	0.032597	-0.21125	0.833407
NIC	-0.18303	0.028203	-0.001129	0.000269	-4.19467	0.000092*
D	-0.073515	0.031443	-0.000056	0.000024	-2.33802	0.022738*
P	-0.036438	0.023739	-0.065805	0.042872	-1.53491	0.130063
FIC	0.122117	0.031511	0.083203	0.021470	3.87533	0.000266*
FRIC	0.053099	0.030604	0.000148	0.000085	1.73502	0.087871
LIC	0.030632	0.027077	0.054951	0.048573	1.13131	0.262428
Czech Republic						
Summary of regression variables LR: R= 0.99969433 R²= 0.99938876 Impr. R2= 0.99891335 F(6,8)=2102.2 p<0.00000						
Std. Error of estimation:0.00374						
Const.			0.139270	0.050309	2.76829	0.021814
NIC	-0.113238	0.030795	-0.002351	0.000639	-3.67721	0.005097*
D	0.090297	0.053666	0.000051	0.000030	1.68258	0.126748
P	0.005900	0.012657	0.005240	0.011241	0.46618	0.652163
FIC	0.021759	0.013704	0.018398	0.011587	1.58772	0.146811
FRIC	0.014246	0.027846	0.000035	0.000068	0.51161	0.621241
LIC	-0.066279	0.035779	-0.182395	0.098461	-1.85246	0.096971
Hungary						
Summary of regression variables LR: R= 0.99810330 R²= 0.99621021 Impr. R2= 0.99326259 F(6,8)=337.97 p<0.00000						
Std. Error of estimation: 0.01388						
Const.			0.245987	0.086827	2.83309	0.019623
NIC	-0.106219	0.062186	-0.001910	0.001118	-1.70807	0.121801
D	-0.044310	0.061277	-0.000083	0.000115	-0.72312	0.487973
P	0.006755	0.029756	0.018102	0.079744	0.22700	0.825494
FIC	-0.020514	0.046091	-0.031534	0.070849	-0.44508	0.666772
FRIC	0.022567	0.040704	0.000076	0.000137	0.55442	0.592802
LIC	-0.071747	0.048357	-0.220606	0.148687	-1.48370	0.172042
Poland						
Summary of regression variables LR: R= 0.99889976 R²= 0.99780074 Impr. R2= 0.99609020 F(6,8)=583.33 p<0.00000						
Std. Error of estimation: 0.00928						
Const.			0.188762	0.073762	2.55906	0.030735
NIC	-0.125380	0.030703	-0.002830	0.000693	-4.08356	0.002743*
D	-0.070870	0.063851	-0.000078	0.000070	-1.10994	0.295799
P	-0.014376	0.047388	-0.427162	1.408097	-0.30336	0.768510
FIC	0.028227	0.058955	0.081779	0.170802	0.47879	0.643504
FRIC	-0.022563	0.024005	-0.000065	0.000070	-0.93993	0.371794
LIC	0.015110	0.065583	0.021725	0.094295	0.23040	0.822936
Slovakia						
Summary of regression variables LR: R= 0.99940341 R²= 0.99880718 Impr. R2= 0.99787942 F(6,8)=1076.6 p<0.00000						
Std. Error of estimation: 0.00466						
Const.			0.25608	0.082232	3.1141	0.012436
NIC	-0.495209	0.027751	-0.00688	0.000386	-17.8449	0.000000*
D	0.132990	0.049216	0.00009	0.000031	2.7022	0.024308*
P	-0.112281	0.052573	-4.38728	2.054245	-2.1357	0.061448
FIC	0.029029	0.024944	0.01835	0.015767	1.1637	0.274450
FRIC	0.042829	0.019313	0.00013	0.000059	2.2176	0.053773
LIC	0.067856	0.046107	0.12670	0.086087	1.4717	0.175180

Note: LR – level of non-financial reporting, NIC – number of insurance companies, D – density rate (USD per inhabitant), P – penetration rate (gross written premiums / GDP), FIC – market share of foreign companies in the domestic market, FRIC – share of foreign insurance companies in non-financial reporting, and LIC – life insurance share.

Analysis of the results shows that the level of non-financial reporting in the particular countries is affected by:

- All Visegrad Group countries – the number of insurance companies (variable NIC), density rate (variable D) and market share of foreign companies in the domestic market (variable FIC),
- Czech Republic – the number of insurance companies (variable NIC),
- Hungary – none of the variables is statistically significant,
- Poland – the number of insurance companies (variable NIC), and

- Slovakia – the number of insurance companies (variable NIC) and density rate (variable D).

This means that the level of non-financial reporting is most affected by the size of market, determined by the number of insurance companies and its development measured by density. This is in line with Outreville (1990), Ward and Zurbruegg (2000), and Li et al. (2007). The share of foreign insurance companies is statistically significant only for all studied countries as a whole. This variable is not statistically significant for the development of non-financial reporting in individual Visegrad Group countries.

CONCLUSION

This study aimed to find out whether foreign capital has a positive effect on the advancement of non-financial reporting in the Visegrad Group countries (the Czech Republic, Slovakia, Hungary and Poland), as, to the authors' knowledge, such a study has not yet been conducted. Preliminary analysis of the results indicated that the share of foreign insurance companies may become a determinant in the development of non-financial reporting. It has been argued that the greater the share of foreign insurers in an insurance market, the higher the level of non-financial reporting. Thus, the study partly corroborated the research hypothesis that foreign capital positively influences the advancement of non-financial reporting. In Hungary, the level of non-financial reporting was the highest and it also exhibited the greatest share of foreign capital. Otherwise, analysis of the results of the model estimations shows that the share of foreign insurers in the market is not a statistically significant factor in the advancement of non-financial reporting in individual countries, only with regard to the Visegrad Group countries as a whole. Overall, the evidence gathered in this paper suggests that the hypothesis cannot be validated for individual countries, but validated with reference to the entire Visegrad Group. More research is needed to better understand the outcomes of individual countries.

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